

RELATING TO SPECIAL TAXES BY CITIES, TOWNS AND  
COUNTIES FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS,  
PUBLIC ROADS, ETC.

S. J. R. No. 20.]

A JOINT RESOLUTION.

Proposing an amendment to Section 9 of Article 8 of the Constitution of the State of Texas, by changing said Section 9 so as to provide for the levy of taxes by counties, cities and towns, not to exceed thirty cents for roads and bridges, and a tax not to exceed fifty cents on the One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars' valuation in any one year, for the erection of public buildings, streets, sewers, waterworks, improvements of cemeteries, and other permanent improvements, providing for the levy of a maintenance tax by counties, or political subdivisions thereof, not to exceed sixty cents on the One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars' valuation, upon a majority vote of the qualified property tax payers voting at an election held for that purpose, and making an appropriation therefor.

*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. That Section 9 of Article 8 of the Constitution of the State of Texas be so amended that the same will hereafter read as follows:

Section 9. The State tax on property, exclusive of the tax necessary to pay the public debt, and the taxes provided for the benefit of the public free schools, shall never exceed thirty-five cents on the One Hundred Dollars' valuation; and counties, cities and towns are authorized to levy not exceeding thirty-five cents for city or county purposes, and not exceeding thirty cents for roads and bridges, and not exceeding fifteen cents to pay jurors, on the One Hundred Dollars' valuation, exclusive of taxes levied for the payment of debts incurred prior to the adoption of the amendment September 25th, 1883; and for the erection of public buildings, streets, sewers, waterworks, improvement of cemeteries, and other permanent improvements not to exceed fifty cents on the One Hundred Dollars' valuation, in one year, and except as in this Constitution otherwise provided and the qualified voters, who have been assessed or paid property tax, of any county or sub-division thereof now existing or that may hereafter be defined by the Commissioners' Court, may at an election called in accordance with the law authorizing the levy of a special road tax, by a majority vote levy a special tax of not exceeding sixty cents on the one hundred dollars' valuation on all property, for the further improvement and maintenance of public roads; provided that this provision shall be self-enacting and that no part of such tax shall be available to pay an indebtedness incurred prior to the current year for which said tax is collected, except to pay indebtedness now existing, and provided further that such levy may be voted off or changed at any time by majority vote of those qualified to vote under this provision. And the Legislature may pass local laws for the maintenance of public roads and highways, without the local notice required for special or local laws.

SEC. 2. The foregoing constitutional amendment shall be submitted to a vote of the qualified electors at an election to be held for that purpose on the fourth day of November A. D. 1919; at said election the

vote shall be by official ballot which shall have printed or written thereon the words "For the amendment to Article 8, Section 9 of the Constitution of the State of Texas providing for the levy of taxes not to exceed thirty cents for roads, streets and bridges and not to exceed fifty cents for the erection of public buildings, streets, sewers, waterworks and other permanent improvements, and not to exceed sixty cents for maintenance of public roads, in one year," and, also, the words "Against the amendment to Article 8, Section 9 of the Constitution of the State of Texas providing for the levy of taxes not to exceed thirty cents for roads, streets and bridges, and not to exceed fifty cents for the erection of public buildings, streets, sewers, waterworks and other permanent improvements, and not to exceed sixty cents for the maintenance of public roads, in any one year." All voters favoring this proposed constitutional amendment shall erase the words "against the amendment to Article 8, Section 9 of the Constitution," etc., and those opposing it shall erase the words "for the amendment to Article 8, Section 9 of the Constitution," etc., which erasure shall be made by making a mark with pencil or pen through said words. All ballots cast as above provided shall be counted as cast for or against this proposed amendment; and if a majority of the votes cast shall be for the amendment, it shall be declared adopted; if a majority of the votes cast shall be against the amendment, said amendment shall be lost.

SEC. 3. The Governor of this State is hereby directed to issue the necessary proclamation for said election and to have the same published as required by the Constitution and laws of this State.

SEC. 4. The sum of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of funds in the State Treasury not otherwise appropriated to defray the expense of such publication and election.

[NOTE.—S. J. R. No. 20 passed the Senate by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote, yeas 22, nays 3; and passed the House of Representatives with amendments by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote, yeas 104, nays 4; the Senate concurred in the House amendments by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote, yeas 22, nays 1.]

Approved March 19, 1919.